

#### **§ 7.14**

third member, the respective first alternate shall become the third member; and in case of a vacancy in the office of the first alternate, the respective second alternate shall become the first alternate. When unanimously recommended by the three members of the county committee, as constituted under this paragraph and paragraph (c) of this section, and approved by the State committee, the offices of chairperson and vice chairperson of the county committee may be filled from such membership without regard to the order of succession prescribed in this paragraph or the action of the delegates to the county convention.

(b) In case of a vacancy in the panel of delegates to the local administrative area or county convention, the respective community committee alternates shall act as delegates.

(c) In the event that a vacancy, other than one caused by temporary absence, occurs in the membership of the county committee and no alternate is available to fill the vacancy, the State committee shall call a meeting of the delegates of the appropriate community committees to elect persons to fill such vacancies as exist in the membership of the county committee and in the panel of alternates, except as provided in § 7.28 of this part.

(d) In the event that a vacancy, other than one caused by temporary absence, occurs in the membership of the community committee and no alternate is available to fill the vacancy, a special election shall be held to fill such vacancies as exist in the membership and in the panel of alternates.

#### **§ 7.14 Appeals.**

(a) Any eligible voter in the county may appeal to the county committee in writing or in person, or both:

(1) The eligibility or ineligibility of a person to vote,

(2) The eligibility of a person to hold office, and

(3) The validity of the community committee elections. Such appeal must be made within 15 days of the election date, except that appeals on a determination of eligibility of a person nominated by petition must be made within 7 days of the date of notification of ineligibility.

#### **7 CFR Subtitle A (1-1-03 Edition)**

(b) Any eligible voter in the county may appeal to the State committee in writing, in person, or both:

(1) A county committee decision on an election appeal. An appeal of a county committee decision must be made within 15 days of the notification of the decision, and

(2) The validity of a county convention. An appeal on the validity of a county convention must be made within 15 days of the county convention.

#### **§ 7.15 Eligibility requirements of county committee members, community committee members, and delegates.**

(a) To be eligible to hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, a delegate, or an alternate to any such office, a person must meet the conditions set forth in this section.

(b) Such person must:

(1) Be eligible to vote in the local administrative area in which the election is held if proposed for county committee member or alternate, or in the community in which the election is held if proposed for community committee member or alternate;

(2)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, be residing in the local administrative area in which the election is held if proposed for county committee member or alternate, or be residing in the community in which the election is held if proposed for community committee member or alternate.

(ii) In cases where a State line, a county line, a local administrative area boundary, or a community boundary runs through a farm, eligible persons residing on such farm may hold office in the county or community in which the farm has been determined to be located for program participation purposes. In cases where a candidate has no farming interests in the local administrative area or community in which the person resides or only a token amount, as determined by the State committee, an eligible person may hold office when such person resides in the county and has farming interests in the local administrative area or community in which the person is a candidate.